Darien Public Schools

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Dear Darien Community,

Tonight is our final home football game and we love filling the stadium with supportive, excited fans. Please be reminded that Friday night football games are not a drop off event. While the DHS student section is supervised by DHS administrators, elementary and middle school students must be under the supervision of an adult. This requirement is in place to keep all the children safe and maintain order in the stadium and on the school campus.

Halloween Safety Tips
As we prepare for tomorrow's Halloween festivities, DPS Director of Security John Shaughnessy would like to share the following tips with our community to keep everyone safe while trick-or-treating:

- All elementary aged students should be accompanied by an adult while trick-or-treating; older students should be in groups and not alone
- All trick-or-treaters should wear bright, reflective clothing to be easily seen by motorists
- When walking through neighborhoods, please use all accessible sidewalks and crosswalks
- Make sure to check all candy before your child eats it to ensure nothing has been contaminated or tampered with

We wish everyone in the DPS community a very happy, safe and fun Halloween!

Professional Learning Day on Election Day - No Students
As a reminder, there will be no school for students on Election Day, next Tuesday, November 3rd, as our staff will be engaging in a day of professional learning. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Wednesday, November 4th!

UCBC Art Opening
The DPS Visual Art Department is proud to announce that the 12th Annual K-12 Art Show will be installed on November 3rd at Upper Crust Bakery and Cafe located at 980 Post Rd. All are invited to our opening reception on Thursday, November 5 from 4-6 pm. If you can't make the reception, we encourage you to stop by, grab a coffee and bagel, and enjoy some creative work made by our K-12 students, which will remain on display through mid-January.

Tenor & Bass Showcase
The DPS Music Department and Darien Music Parents Association are pleased to present the 2026 Tenor and Bass Showcase on Thursday, November 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the Middlesex Middle School Auditorium. This fun, engaging family concert celebrates tenor and bass voices and encourages more students to get involved in chorus. The program will feature the MMS Combined Boys' Choir; the combined men's choir from DHS Concert Choir, Tudor Singers, and Chamber Choir; and special guest performers the Yale Spizzwinks. Tickets are $10 per person, with a maximum of $20 per family. Admission is

free for performers and all Darien Public Schools students and staff. Proceeds benefit the Darien Music Parents Association, which provides music enrichment opportunities and scholarships for DPS students. Tickets may be purchased at darienmpa.ludus.com.

BOE Meeting - Fiscal Forecast

At last Tuesday's BOE meeting, we kicked off budget development season. At the request of the BOE, Mr. Rich Rudl, Director of Finance and Operations, and I presented a Fiscal Forecast for the FY 2028 Budget. The purpose of the presentation is to share where we project the budget to be heading as we work with our administrative team over the next few months on building a fiscally responsible budget that meets the needs of our schools and programs. On January 7, 2027 we will present our proposed comprehensive budget to the BOE. If you are interested in viewing the Fiscal Forecast presentation, please follow this link (the Fiscal Forecast presentation begins around the 14:30 mark).

Data Privacy - What protects your child's data?

I was recently asked what measures are in place in the Darien Public Schools to protect the privacy of students. The State of Connecticut has very clear law, along with consequences for vendors who violate it, governing the use of student data in educational technology platforms. We follow the protocols established by the state, including vetting vendors before their products are used with students. Our DPS data privacy agreement is an additional safeguard in place. New vendors who have not already signed with the state must sign our data privacy agreement before their product is used in our schools if personally identifiable student information is collected. Two provisions are especially relevant to the questions families are asking:

1. The contractor may not collect, store, or use student data or persistent unique identifiers for any purpose other than furthering school purposes, as determined by the Board of Education.
2. The contractor may not sell, rent, or trade student data. If the contractor merges with or is purchased by another entity, it must notify the Board in writing and receive written approval before providing any student data to its successor.

As a school district, we are committed to transparency. We publicly share our approved resources, privacy agreements, and practices on our data privacy webpage. Families can review which tools are in use and what agreements govern them. Links to each vendor's privacy policy are also available within the platform.

We share a goal with every parent: keeping children safe and ensuring technology serves learning. As such we urge you to closely examine any applications, games, programs that your child may be using on any personal devices outside of school, especially social media, to develop an understanding of the data privacy guidelines with those platforms.

Curriculum Highlight: Grade 4 Social Studies

We were recently asked about how the 50 states are taught in our elementary schools. In our 4th grade social studies curriculum, geography serves as the primary lens for learning. In Unit 1, "*Postcards from the Regions Exploring our Big, Beautiful Nation",* students learn the geography of all fifty states organized across the nation's distinct regions. State geography is used as a foundation to cultivate higher order thinking skills, guiding students to analyze regional weather patterns, explore unique geographic characteristics, and gain a deeper understanding of our country.

Families can view detailed curriculum guides for all grade levels and subjects by visiting the Curriculum Blueprint (click this link) on our District website. (Navigation: Teaching and Learning; District Curriculum). Additionally, in response to parent interest, we have added a daytime offering for our Parent University Workshop, *"Demystifying the K-12 Curriculum"*. The session will be held on November 20th (11:00-12:00) Central Office 35 Leroy Avenue. Families can reserve their spot using this form

Athletic Schedule

It is a weekend full of post-season action - best of luck to all of our Blue Wave teams!

Friday, October 30:

Field Hockey vs. Ridgefield (FCIAC Quarterfinals): 3:30 PM, DHS Stadium Field
Volleyball vs. Fairfield Warde (FCIAC Quarterfinals): 4:00 PM, DHS Gym
Football vs. Danbury (Senior Night): 7:00 PM, DHS Stadium Field

Saturday, October 31:

Girls Swimming at the FCIAC Finals: 10:30 AM, Greenwich High School Pool
Boys Cross Country at the Class L Championship: 2:20 PM, Wickham Park (Manchester)
Girls Cross Country at the Class L Championship: 2:50 PM, Wickham Park (Manchester)

Enjoy the weekend! Have a safe and Happy Halloween!

Sincerely,



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